



## TOWN OF BEAUX ARTS VILLAGE

### TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

March 13, 2007  
Robinson

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Judee Wells, Councilmembers Carol Clemett, Aaron Sharp, Richard Leider, Tom Robinson and Bruce Young.

**EXCUSED:** None.

**STAFF:** Clerk-Treasurer Sue Ann Spens, Town Marshal Walter Scott, Deputy Marshal Scott Harpster.

**GUESTS:** Major Dave Germani, King County Sheriff's Office, Kathy Pompeo, 911 Call Center supervisor, and John Clemett.

**MINUTES:** Councilmember Sharp moved to approve the February 13, 2007 minutes as amended. Councilmember Leider seconded.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

**WARRANTS:** Councilmember Leider moved to approve the March 13, 2007 warrant list, including warrant numbers 7281 through 7305 in the amount of \$22,758.58. Councilmember Robinson seconded.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

#### **CLERK'S REPORT:**

**VISIT WITH KING COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER JANE HAGUE:** Clerk-Treasurer Spens reported that County Councilmember Jane Hague would like to meet with the Council at a regular meeting in the near future. It was the consensus of the Council to invite her to attend the May Council meeting.

**CELLPHONE FOR NEW DEPUTY CLERK:** Clerk-Treasurer Spens reported that she and Mayor Wells discussed various phone options for the new Deputy Clerk and had decided:

- The Deputy Clerk needs a phone line that is separate from his/her home telephone,
- That this separate phone line will allow the Building Department to be run more professionally, and
- That a cell phone makes the most sense because of portability, which makes it easier for the Clerk-Treasurer to provide vacation coverage.

She explained that the phone will cost \$40 to \$50 per month and that the added expense is already budgeted for this year. It was the consensus of the Council that obtaining a cell phone for the new Deputy Clerk is appropriate.

**METER READER CANDIDATES:** Clerk-Treasurer Spens reported that three Village children have applied for the position of meter reader. She added that because each of the applicants is only 10 years old, two will be chosen to job-share the position, which should enhance the accuracy and reliability of the readings taken. She also noted that the service contract for providing these services will be executed with their parents and that at least one of the parents will accompany the readers during their reading cycle.

**MARSHAL'S REPORT:** Town Marshal Walter Scott stated that he has a meeting with the Bellevue Police Department to discuss the cost of contract services through City of Bellevue. He added that he is looking into the cost of using street cameras to enhance safety and security in the Village and that he will be looking into how to revitalize Block Watch. He asked that the next newsletter include a note to residents asking for their email addresses to be used for Blockwatch alerts.

**WABA REPORT:** No WABA representative.

**WATER REPORT:** No report.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:** Councilmember Robinson reported that he continues to work on the details for implementing SPAN (Strengthening Preparedness Among Neighbors) training in Beaux Arts, noting that 95% of those impacted by an emergency or natural disaster either self-rescue or are rescued by neighbors, which makes the SPAN training a great fit. He noted that Town Marshal Scott and Deputy Marshal Harpster probably should be involved in SPAN training also.

**MEETING WITH MAJOR DAVE GERMANI, KING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (KCSO):** Mayor Wells introduced Major Germani and explained that the impetus for this visit is a recent incident in the Village involving a night car prowler and calls to the 911 operator. She added that the main purpose of the visit is to discuss how KCSO responds to emergencies in Beaux Arts, how residents can assist in that response, and what the Town and individual residents can do to improve the safety and security of everyone. She noted that a list of potential questions was provided to Major Germani in advance.

Major Germani greeted the Council and introduced Kathy Pompeo, a supervisor at the King County 911 Call Center in Renton. He then asked Ms. Pompeo to address questions and concerns about calls to 911.

Ms. Pompeo first explained the differences between call placed through various phones services, i.e. land lines, cell phones, and VOIP (voice over internet protocol) phones:

- Calls from a land line are preferred as they are routed directly to the 911 Call Center assigned to that geographical area, in Beaux Arts' case that would be the King County 911 Center. In addition, Caller ID instantly provides the address of the telephone from which the call is placed. Both of these factors reduce the amount of time needed to respond to an emergency call.
- Calls from a cell phone are routed to the 911 Call Center that is the closest to the approximate location of the cell phone (although not all cell phone have GPS tracking

available). If the 911 call goes to a call center other than that operated by the KCSO, it must first be transferred to the appropriate agency before it can be handled. In addition, not all cell phones provide Caller ID information.

- Calls over VOIP (e.g. Comcast, Vonage, Skype) may be transferred to any 911 Call Center in the US as this technology is still developing. VOIP calls do not provide Caller ID information.

Ms. Pompeo then explained that operators at the 911 Call Centers have a strong preference for the use of land lines, because of the reduced time to handle and respond to an emergency; however, if a land line is not available, people needing assistance should call using the phone that is more convenient for them. She added that calls to 911 are answered within 10 seconds more than 90% of the time and that if this standard is not met, the 911 Call Center loses some of its funding.

Ms. Pompeo stated that callers needing to contact the KCSO should always call 911, even if the call is not an emergency. She explained that all call-center operators are trained to ask a certain set of questions to help them assess what emergency, if any, exists and to deal with the call appropriately. She added that calls are prioritized by the severity of the emergency, the danger to life, property, etc. and that calls that are of the highest priority (e.g. save the life, protect the property) are relayed to the nearest source of help. She explained that this means a call to the KCSO 911 Call Center might result in a response by Bellevue Police if no KCSO deputy is closer to the scene.

Major Germani first addressed questions and concerns about general safety in Beaux Arts. He first commented that house numbers throughout the Village are often difficult to locate and/or read. He suggested that home owners be reminded periodically to ask a visitor or a neighbor to look at their house and comment on whether their number signage is adequate. He also suggested that residents consider placing a small reflective post clearly showing their house number somewhere near the street and their driveway.

He also suggested that residents consider installed motion-activated lighting around their homes and alarm systems on their house. He added that audible alarms seem to be the most effective as they scare away potential intruders. He also commented that this strategy works best when you know your neighbors and they know you – neighbors who know one another will often notice strangers in the neighborhood. Ms. Pompeo added that, when you will be away from home for several days, you should put timers on interior lights, let a neighbor know when you will be leaving and returning, cancel your newspaper, and arrange for your mail to be held at the post office or picked up by someone.

Major Germani then tackled questions about speed enforcement, particularly along the arterial (104<sup>th</sup>/SE 28<sup>th</sup>/105<sup>th</sup>). He stated that this question has come up before and that he is working to get personnel to handle periodic speed-enforcement exercises. He explained that this task is typically handled by off-duty motorcycle officers at a cost of about \$220 per four-hour shift and is coordinated through the director of the Officer's Guild. He added that implementing this type of enforcement usually slows drivers down for awhile but must be repeated on an irregular basis for ongoing compliance.

Deputy Marshal Harpster commented that he knows of a few cars that regularly speed through the Village and wondered if that information can be used. Major Germani answered that if he is given a description of the car and its license number, a KCSO deputy can contact the owner and inform them that their car has been observed speeding in Beaux Arts.

Councilmember Clemett recounted her concerns about a recent incident in Beaux Arts that took place around her home. She noted that she felt the 911 operator was not very helpful and did not give any hints about how to protect her home and family. Ms. Pompeo explained that, in the incident in question, the real problem was communication between the Bellevue police officers and their 911 dispatcher; the Bellevue officers were responding to a reported car prowling and had notified their dispatcher that they were clearing the area, when in fact they proceeded to make an apprehension. She added that in such instances where circumstances change rapidly, the officers on the scene may have to choose between catching a suspect and reporting their activities to the dispatcher.

Councilmember Clemett added that she felt the 911 operator was not reassuring in her manner. Ms. Pompeo stated that she has listened to the tapes of this particular call and is working with the particular operator who handled it to improve the operator's skills.

Major Germani noted that one of the important things he took from the reports regarding this incident was the KCSO deputy's references to "my town", which shows that the deputies assigned to patrol Beaux Arts take their work seriously and treat the Town as if they lived here.

Town Marshal Scott asked if three daily patrols are effective both from a cost standpoint and a crime-prevention standpoint. He added that he wonders if the number of daily patrols should be reduced so that money could be shifted to another more effective activity. Major Germani answered that he feels three daily patrols are a minimum and that, because the patrols happen at unpredictable times throughout each deputy's shift, they provide a greater police presence than one might expect.

Town Marshal Scott asked if we would perceive a difference in level of service if we contracted with Bellevue Police Department. Major Germani answered that he believes the King County Sheriff provides excellent service, especially for the cost to Beaux Arts, but he cannot honestly say that KCSO is better. He added that Bellevue Police are on-call to help KCSO respond to emergencies through a mutual-aid agreement and stated that he thinks that getting the same level of service directly from Bellevue would probably cost Beaux Arts more.

Major Germani ended by thanking the Council for the opportunity to meet with them face-to-face and discuss these issues. Ms. Pompeo added that tours of the 911 Call Center can be scheduled if anyone is interested.

**TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Councilmember Clemett distributed a proposal for determining what, if any, regulations the Town needs to protect its trees and how she

proposes to go about developing those rules within the time frame set forth by the Tree Moratorium Ordinance No. 350. She explained that the first order of business is to select committee members, which she is already working on, and then to focus attention on the guiding principles.

A discussion ensued about ensuring equitable treatment among lots of varying sizes and with varying canopy cover, about how to address groves versus individual trees, and other concerns. From the discussion came the suggestion for two more guiding principles: “Establish the needs, costs and benefits of any proposed regulations.” and “Establish how a tree-management plan may affect other property uses and how it coordinates with our current zoning regulations.”

It was the consensus of the Council that these principles be included and that Councilmember Clemett proceed with contacting residents to serve on this committee.

Councilmember Clemett noted that one idea for protecting trees without passing new legislation would be to encourage residents who are concerned about preserving trees in the Village to implement conservation easements on their property to protect their own trees. She added that she will pass on these discussion items to the committee for consideration.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 236 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL AGREEMENT WITH KOLKE CONSULTING GROUP:**

Clerk-Treasurer Spens recounted the process by which the Council chose to offer a contract to Kolke Consulting Group for Building Department Services and noted that Town Attorney Stewart has approved the contract as to form. Mayor Wells stated that she is still working to complete her review of the contract but is asking the Council for authorization to execute the contract pending the completion of her review.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Leider moved to adopt Resolution No. 236 authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract for building-department services with Kolke Consulting Group. Councilmember Robinson seconded.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:**

**TOWN CLEAN-UP:** Councilmember Clemett announced that Robin Stefan is planning the Spring Town Clean-up for April 28<sup>th</sup>. She asked Clerk-Treasurer Spens to arrange for dumpsters to be delivered to the same five locations as were used last fall and noted that Ms. Stefan will post announcements about the clean up date on the mailstands and provide an announcement for the next newsletter.

**TREE COMPANIES / ARBORISTS:** Councilmember Young reported that he is working to develop relationships with other arborists and asked if the Council had any questions or concerns. There were none.

**UNDERGROUNDING UTILITIES:** Councilmember Leider reported that he has some information for the Council to discuss regarding undergrounding utilities and asked for time

on the April agenda to present that information.

**FEMA RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 2006 WINDSTORM:** Councilmember Robinson reported that the Federal government declared an emergency as a result of the extensive damage caused throughout the region by the December 2006 windstorm and that this declaration makes us eligible for FEMA funds to reimburse us for our costs related to repairs and clean-up efforts resulting from that storm. He also reported that Councilmember Sharp, Councilmember Young, Clerk-Treasurer Spens and he met with Chris Polit, who works for the State of Washington Military Department representing FEMA in handling those damage claims. He explained that the State acts on behalf of its constituent cities and counties to present damage claims to FEMA and to collect and distribute the funding that results from those claims. He also explained that FEMA reimburses for most, but not all of the claimed damage expenses, and that the State often reimburses for the portion FEMA does not cover. He added that our AWC Insurance will completely pay for repairs to the water-maintenance shed.

**OVERLAY PROJECT FOR 104<sup>TH</sup> SE/ SE 28<sup>TH</sup>/ 105<sup>TH</sup> SE ARTERIAL:** Councilmember Sharp reported that he has a bid of \$69,850 to perform the overlay work on the arterial but thinks that bid may not include use tax on materials. He noted that this bid may be slightly over what was budgeted for the project. It was the consensus of the Council that Councilmember Sharp proceed with the project and if the amount is over-budget, the Council will amend the budget as needed.

**WSDOT TRAFFIC ENGINEERING SERVICES:** Councilmember Sharp reported that he was contacted by the Washington Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) and informed of a program they offer to provide small cities with traffic engineering services. He will look into the program and report back to the Council.

**NEXT MEETING:** Clerk-Treasurer Spens reported that at least one Councilmember is unable to attend the April meeting if it is held on its regular date, April 10<sup>th</sup>. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to continue the date of the regular April meeting to April 24, 2007 and hold it at Councilmember Sharp's house.

**ADJOURN:** Councilmember Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 pm.

Councilmember Leider seconded.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Ann Spens  
Clerk-Treasurer